Chester Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting, April 16, 2015  
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Call to Order  
Introduction and seating of members  
The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on April 16, 2015 at the  
Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance  
were Virginia Carmany, Lori Ann Clymas (seated for B. Gorman), Alex Strekel  
(seated for J. Aley) and Rick Nygard (seated for C. Park). Dave Cohen arrived during  
the meeting. First Selectman Ed Meehan and Selectman Larry Sypher were also  
present. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from March 2015  
Motion by Clymas, second by Strekel, to approve March 19, 2015 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved with Nygard abstaining.

New Business  
Review of draft full year 2015-16 Operating Budget, Revenue Budget and Capital  
Five Year budget with Forecasted Fund Balance Allocation and suggested prefunded  
Capital Budget and Determine and agree on Revenue, Operating and Capital Budget  
for 2015/16  
Chairman Carmany noted this was a continuation of the discussion from last night  
in which it was agreed to include an additional $50,000 to expenditures cover some  
unknown open items.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed some of the changes. He noted very few things  
changed other than employee expenses for medical, FICA, Park & Rec and  
Contingencies. He indicated a couple of proposals have been received for medical  
which are being reviewed. The Capital stayed the same. The mil rate will increase  
by .50. The additional $50,000 goes into the Contingency account.

Vote to send Budgets to Town Hearing as recommended by Board of Selectmen per  
calendar schedule determined by First Selectman  
Motion by Cohen, second by Nygard, to recommend the Budget to Town  
Hearing as discussed scheduled for May 6th. Unanimously Approved.

Reports  
Monthly Financials  
Chairman Carmany noted Monthly Financials had been distributed and looked  
good. The Tax Collector's Report was on target. There were no questions.

Consideration and Approval of Bills – none.

First Selectman's Report  
First Selectman Meehan noted the bids for the Main Street Project Phase 1 were
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openend last Thursday. The 3 low bidders will be interviewed tomorrow. The Project Engineer will verify costs, bidder qualifications, etc. etc. All bidders were located in Connecticut. First Selectman Meehan noted it will be important to find out who the contractor's subcontractors will be. Traffic management will be very important. The project needs to be done expeditiously. There was a brief discussion regarding traffic management, culvert replacement, tree work, utilities, curbing, etc. All bidders had to submit a 5% bid bond with the bid. There are no bid alternates in this phase. Meehan noted Laurel Hill Cemetery is still part of this phase. They are not doing decorative lighting in LHC, but rather shoebox design with cutoffs that can be adjusted for the neighbors privacy. They will be milling and cleaning up on Main Street further west up to the old Town Hall in order to blend the 2 projects.

Old Business
There was a brief discussion regarding Selectmen’s salary. It was noted Selectmen get the same salary increase as Union members. First Selectman Meehan noted there are a lot of resources out there and a salary review should be done on an off election year. Selectman Sypher noted he felt the First Selectman’s salary was too low. One member of the BOF felt the study should be done in an election year.

There was a brief discussion regarding school regionalization. Chairman Carmany noted it is a misconception that closing an elementary school will save money. It may save money for the Region, but not the individual town. There are a lot of moving parts that need to be put on the table for this discussion.

Audience of Citizens
Elizabeth Netsch and James Grzybowski were in the audience.

Adjourn
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary